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## Reconsidering the Political Role of International Organizations

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## Abstract

International organizations (IOs), traditionally assessed as government-led and not very autonomous institutions, are currently undergoing a breakthrough by engaging multiple actors, acting at different policy levels, across issues and undertaking and delegating new roles. Even if IOs have been there for a long time, the diplomatic mechanisms to get other actors do what IOs intend without the use of force is, by and large, an underresearched area. In this sense, *orchestration* as the process whereby IOs enlist on voluntary basis intermediaries with similar objectives with which exchange material or ideational resources to pursue their common goals (Abbott et al. 2015) is central. This research explores something not previously described in orchestration theory. I have thought about the concrete causal pathways of how orchestration works with IOs with medium governance capacity. This thesis is divided into three parts. First, it distinguishes the two main IO *orchestration approaches*, namely persuasion and social leverage. Second, it discusses the need to differentiate between orchestration by entrepreneurial *multipurpose organizations* that engage in social leverage through *private intermediary actors* and orchestration delegated to *treaty secretariats* that engage in persuasion through *public intermediary actors*. Besides, it provides the tools needed to assess *orchestration influence* in the field of global environmental governance (GEG). Last, a thorough empirical research for the purpose of *strengthening IO orchestration in GEG* in general and, coral reef governance in particular is conducted.